

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A system for remotely accessing an internet connection having a dynamic IP address, the system comprising:

an internet appliance coupled to an internet connection;

a dynamic IP relay hardware device coupled with said internet appliance and said internet connection;

said device being configured to report to a remote user, via said internet connection, a dynamic IP address associated with said internet connection; and,

said dynamic IP relay hardware is not a general purpose personal computer, whereby, the remote user is provided with the dynamic IP address which can be used to facilitate remote access of the internet appliance.

Claim 2 (original) A system of claim 1 wherein said dynamic IP relay hardware comprises a microprocessor and software executed by said microprocessor which, in combination, are configured to generate a report of an IP address for said internet connection in response to an occurrence of a predetermined event.

Claim 3 (original) A system of claim 2 wherein said predetermined event comprises a passage of a predetermined amount of time.

Claim 4 (original) A system of claim 2 wherein said predetermined event comprises a determination, at least in part, by monitoring software, that a dynamic IP address for said internet connection has been changed.

Claim 5 (original) A system of claim 2 wherein said report is configurable in response to a particular configuration state of configuration software executed by said microprocessor.

Claim 6 (original) A system of claim 5 wherein said configuration software is configured to provide for configuration thereof by a device external to said dynamic IP relay hardware device.

Claim 7 (original) A system of claim 2 wherein said dynamic IP relay hardware device comprises a printed circuit board disposed in a case housing other electronic hardware coupled to a computer network.

Claim 8 (original) A system of claim 2 wherein said microprocessor assists in initiating a dial-up internet connection in response to an incoming telephone call.

Claim 9 (original) A system of claim 8 wherein a security procedure is completed prior to initiating said dial-up internet connection.

Claim 10 (original) A system of claim 9 wherein said security procedure comprises matching incoming information with predetermined information.

Claim 11 (original) A system of claim 10 wherein said incoming information comprises a series of DTMF tones.

Claim 12 (original) A system of claim 10 wherein said incoming information comprises caller ID information.

Claim 13 (original) A system of claim 12 wherein said dynamic IP relay hardware device comprises a stand-alone device which is not completely housed within a case containing a modem.

Claim 14 (original) A system of claim 12 wherein said dynamic IP relay hardware device comprises a stand-alone device which is not completely housed within a case containing a router.

Claim 15 (original) A method of remotely accessing an internet appliance comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic hardware device which is not a general purpose personal computer;

using said electronic hardware device to generate a report of an IP address for an internet connection, in response to an occurrence of a predetermined event;

using said electronic hardware device to communicate said report to a remote user via said internet connection; and

using said IP address to remotely access said internet connection.

Claim 16 (original) A method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:

determining if a change in IP address has occurred with respect to said internet connection.

Claim 17 (original) A method of claim 15 wherein said report comprises an e-mail.

Claim 18 (original) A method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

answering an incoming telephone call;

receiving incoming authorization information during said incoming telephone call;

matching said incoming authorization information to predetermined authorization information;

initiating a dial-up connection in response to said step of matching said incoming authorization information to predetermined authorization information; and

wherein said dial-up connection comprises said internet connection.

Claim 19 (original) A method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

configuring said report via a personal computer coupled to said electronic hardware device.

Claim 20 (original) A system for accessing information from an unattended internet appliance via an internet connection having dynamic IP addresses comprising:

an unattended internet appliance;

a telephone modem disposed between and interconnecting said unattended internet appliance with a remote user via a dial-up internet connection;

a stand-alone electronic hardware device which is not a general purpose personal computer and which is further not disposed in a case with a device which is configured for communicating information across a computer network;

said stand-alone electronic hardware device comprising a microprocessor and memory which is configured to store software therein which is executed by said microprocessor;

said stand-alone electronic hardware device being configured to receive report configuration commands from an external personal computer;

said microprocessor and said software together configured to initiate said dial-up internet connection in response to an incoming telephone call which authorizes said

dial-up internet connection only after incoming information is matched to predetermined authorization information; and,

said microprocessor and said software together further configured to generate an e-mail report indicating a current IP address for said dial-up internet connection, where said e-mail report is in response to said report configuration commands.

Claim 21 (original) A method of testing a configuration of an internet appliance comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic hardware device which is not a general purpose personal computer;

using said electronic hardware device to generate a report of an IP address for an internet connection, in response to an occurrence of a predetermined event;

using said electronic hardware device to communicate said report to a remote user via said internet connection; and

using said IP address to test a configuration.

Claim 22 (original) A system for remotely accessing an internet connection having a dynamic IP address, the system comprising:

a dynamic IP relay hardware device coupled to said internet connection;

a device being configured to report to a remote user, via said internet connection, a dynamic IP address associated with said internet connection; and, said dynamic IP relay hardware is not a general purpose personal computer.

Claim 23 (original) A system of claim 22 wherein said dynamic IP relay hardware comprises a microprocessor and software executed by said microprocessor which, in combination, are configured to generate a report of an IP address for said internet connection in response to an occurrence of a predetermined event.